

REMARKS

The Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for consideration of the subject patent application. This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed October 6, 2004. Claims 1-7, 9, 11-29, and 31-44 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7, 9, 11-29, and 31-44 are rejected. Claim 1 has been amended to address the concerns raised by the Examiner. The amendment is made to more specifically describe the subject matter of the invention. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the specification and no new matter has been added by means of the amendment.

Claims 1-44 were originally presented. Claims 1-7, 9, 11-29, and 31-44 remain in the application. Claims 8, 10, and 30 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 1, has been presently amended.

Election/Restriction Requirements:

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that the search was extended to the entire scope of the pending claims and no prior art was found for all of the species encompassed by the claims. All rejection made in the previous office action are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-7, 9, 11-29, and 31-44 are rejected under § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner states that "since the claims recite that the composition is 'capable of forming' the hydrogel, it is unclear as to the constituents of the composition." A telephone interview was held on December 15, 2004 between Dr. Weili Cheng and the Examiner Anish Gupta. Based on the telephone discussion, Claim 1 is amended accordingly to clear the perceived confusion. Therefore, the rejection is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, the Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant requests that the rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed and passed to issue. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to call Dr. Weili Cheng or, in her absence, the undersigned at (801) 566-6633 so that such matters may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

DATED this 17th day of December, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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